

**ROCKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING,
MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2010, 6:30 PM
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**

The School Committee met on Monday, August 23, 2010, at 6:30 PM, in the Senior High Library. Committee members present were: Chairman Norris, Mrs. Pezzella, Mr. Mills, Mrs. Werkheiser, and Mr. Mullen. Also present were Superintendent Retchless, Assistant Superintendent Scarpelli, and Mrs. Cusick.

The press was represented by citizens broadcasting for WRPS/TV.

Present in the audience were: Ms. Bohn, Middle School Principal; Mrs. McGrath, Esten School Principal; Mrs. Pruitt, Jefferson School Principal; Mrs. Sheehan, Memorial Park Principal; and Ms. Salem, Pupil Personnel Services Director.

On motion of Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, the minutes of the meeting of June 28, 2010 were accepted. Mrs. Pezzella, Mr. Mills, Mrs. Werkheiser and Mr. Mullen voted in favor. Mr. Norris abstained.

The minutes of the South Shore Regional School District Committee meetings of May 19 and June 16, 2010 were noted.

The Superintendent highlighted the work done by the Maintenance Department and custodians during this summer. Special commendations went to Ken Dunn, Paul Victor and Andy Catino for their work relocating the Superintendent's office to the Lincoln School. The Superintendent's space at the high school has been converted back into classrooms. Mr. Retchless commented on a conference he attended sponsored by AASA in Washington, DC. The Jobs Bill was discussed with Senator Scott Brown and his assistants. The Superintendent reported on the success of the recent summer school stating that it was computer driven and some students were allowed to attend free as a result of a grant. Forty-eight students going into the third grade attended a Title I summer school program which consisted of one hour per day of reading, math, and physical education. It was noted that these students will be tracked to watch their progress.

On four separate motions by Mr. Mills, seconds by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the following June Monthly Reports were approved:

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| 1) Administrators | Mr. Sangster, Mrs. McGrath,
Mr. Kohn/Dr. Levine, Mrs. Sheehan |
| 2) Guidance | Mrs. Shaw |
| 3) Nurse | Mrs. Ryan |
| 4) Pupil Personnel Services | Ms. Salem |

On three separate motions by Mr. Mills, seconds by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the following Financial Reports for June were accepted:

- 1) School Department
- 2) High School Student Activities
- 3) Middle School Student Activities

It was noted that all of the approved textbook adoptions have been purchased.

On five separate motions by Mrs. Pezzella, seconds by Mr. Mills, unanimous, the following Security Trailer Reports for June and July were accepted:

- 1) Almshouse
- 2) Esten
- 3) Hartsuff Park
- 4) Jefferson
- 5) Memorial Park

The Building Rentals for June and July were noted. It was noted that all town activities are being accommodated and that there are two basketball courts at Lincoln School that are available for use by the public.

Mrs. Werkheiser brought the Committee up to date on the Middle School Building project announcing that Dore & Whittier are the project's architects, Daedalus Projects, Inc. is the Owner's Project Manager and the construction company is Agostini. It was noted that the Quincy Career Center, Department of Employment & Training will have an office on the second floor of the Lincoln School for people with questions regarding the project. It was announced that the Rockland Trust Company has loaned twenty-three parking spaces for use by faculty members. The pre-qualification for tradesmen deadline had been extended. The two time capsules in front of the 1745 house will be moved to the new middle school and the plaza in front of the town hall. The groundbreaking for the project will be held on Tuesday, October 19th at 3 PM.

Superintendent Retchless announced the school hours for Esten School will be 7:45 AM – 2 PM and the high school and middle school hours will be 8 AM – 2:35 PM. A letter has been sent to parents of middle school and high school students explaining the parking changes. There will be a video update of the project on cable to keep the public informed. The bus company and the police department walked the parking lot with the Superintendent to insure a smooth opening of school.

On motion by Mrs. Pezzella, seconded by Mr. Mills, it was voted to approve the proposed fundraisers for September through December 2010.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, it was voted to approve the 2010-2011 Teacher Manuals. It was suggested that there be a universal manual for all teachers with specific items for each school. The substitute handbook will also be updated.

After a general discussion regarding Teacher Manuals and Student Handbooks, it was suggested that all policies and procedures be reviewed and updated.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, the 2010-2011 High School Student Handbook was approved.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, the 2010-2011 Elementary School Student Handbook was approved.

There was a general discussion with regard to the subject of Home Education. On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, it was voted to approve the proposed Home Education requests for the 2010-2011 school year. Mr. Mills, Mr. Mullen, Mrs. Pezzella, and Mrs. Werkheiser voted in favor. Mr. Norris was opposed.

Superintendent Retchless reviewed personnel information for June, July and August noting the appointments of Mrs. Donovan as a social worker at the middle school and Mr. Capone as the health teacher at the middle school. It was also noted that Mrs. Schipper has been appointment as the Assistant Principal at the middle school.

Mrs. Pezzella welcomed all students back to school and wished them well and commended the maintenance department for their efforts during the summer. The Committee expressed condolences to Mrs. O'Brien and family for the recent passing of Mr. O'Brien. Various sports activities including football and baseball were announced. Mrs. Werkheiser commended Mrs. Lamb for her work on the community education program. A fundraiser for Mrs. Morrisette was announced as well as one for the Shields family.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas F. Mills
Secretary